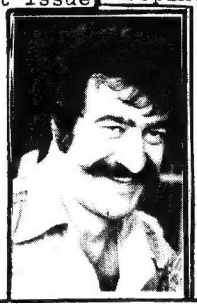
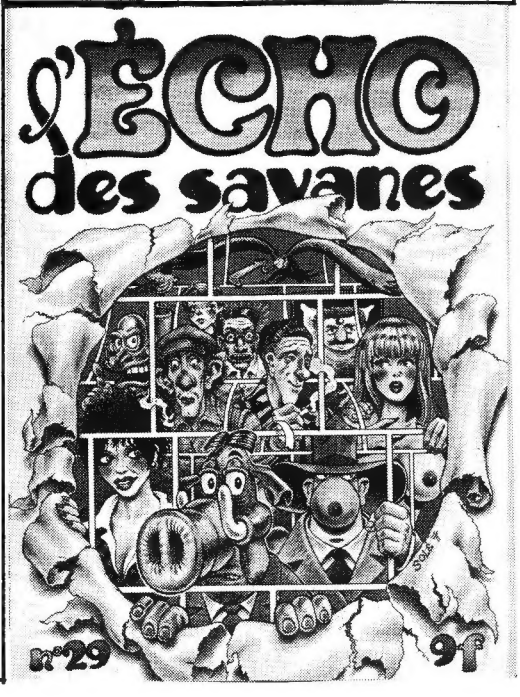
CLAY GEERDES COMIX WORLD

COMIX WORLD 75. Copyright Clay Geerdes, 915 Indian Rock Road, Berkeley, CA 94707. World Rights Reserved. Logo by Sergio Aragones (photo below), one of America's most prolific funnymen. Aragones can draw an entire funnybook in the time it takes a blown-out fan to ask him how he finds his ideas. He's here at the San Diego Comicon at the El Cortez Hotel in San Diego, along with Harvey Kurtzman and Carl Barks and Bob Clampett and Jack Kirby and Gilbert Shelton and Ted Richards and billions of other cartoonists from all over the world. This is the seventh year of the con begun in 1970 by Shel Dorf and it has become the major comic event on the West Coast. While underground participation has been minimal, this year finds Larry Todd, Trina, Shelton, Richards, and others present. Next issue I'll have the full report for you. * SLOW DEATH 8 is nearing completion. Theme of this special ish is Save The Whales. Bil Stout did the cover and many artists are included. Roger Brand turned in his two pages in June. * At Fast Draw Studios, Ted Richards is almost finished with E. Z. Wolf's Astral Outhouse. It will be published by Last Gasp, 2180 Bryant St., San Francisco, along with Trina's Scarlet Pilgrim and S. Clay Wilson's Checkered Demon. The stories in these small-sized books have been serialized. The Checkered Demon material has drawn fire from many quarters. Still running on the back page of the Berkeley BARB, writers have condemned it as "sexist" "male chauvinist" and losts of other things Wilson would consider appropriate subjects for his humor. As letters came into the BARB, Wilson made the strip more and more outrageous. He, like Harlan Ellison, knows how to deal with his critics. The July 1977 issue of Fantasy and Science Fiction is an Ellison special which includes Harlan writing on himself and his longtime associate Robert Silverberg doing the bio.* Barney Steel has his own trip going with some posters and books. You can send for his list by sending an SASE to P. O. Box 996, Colton, CA 92324. * The First X-Rated Coloring Book was drawn by Jeffrey Kerns. $6.95 pp from Ron Turner's Last Gasp, 2180 Bryant, San Francisco, CA. Actually, it's not the first. Joel Beck did his Soft Core Pornographic Coloring Book back in 1971.* The book of new cartoonists, Fresh Blood, should be out by now. J. Michael Leonard did the cover.* We've signed Oakum, a Berkeley Bluegrass band, and Cornell Hurd and his Mondo Hotpants Orchestra (rock-plus) to play at the very first Underground Comic Artists' and Models' BALL which will take place Friday, September 9, 1977, at Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo, in Berkeley. You won't want to miss this beer bash and costume orgy so we're spreading the word early.* A large number of comic and movie character eight-pagers have been reprinted in a two volume set, The Tiajuana Bible Revival. Volume one is Hot Nuts, stories about Moon Mullins and Major Hoople; 2 is Under The Stars in Hollywood. Each volume sells for $5 in adult bookstores. Speaking of Hollywood, Joyce Haber's book The Users mixes real and fictional characters in what is the inside story on today's dream factory. If you're a gossip lover, this one is your meat. Such hard-core sex, Ms. Haber; what'll Anita Bryant think?* I'm told Carload of Comics has sold over 18,000 copies in the U.S. and has been selected for inclusion in the Best Books of '76 Show by the American Institute of Graphic Arts.* E. Z. Wolf from Rip off Press, Box 14158, S. F. CA 94114.



UNDERGROUND COMIX have been published in England, France, Germany, Sweden, Amsterdam, Finland, Australia, and Spain. All of the copies of books like BRAIN STORM (England), MOON COMIX (England), JYMY (Finland), L'ECHO DES SAVANES (Paris), PHAROAH FUNNIES (Australia), EL RROLLO ENMASCARADO (Spain--gracias a Jaume Fargas), and TANTE LENY PRESENTEERT (Amsterdam) show strong influences of the American undergrounds of the mid & late sixties. Pekka Gronow reprinted many American ugs in JYMY and L'ECHO has produced three U. S. A. Editions along with running reprints of Mr. Natural in the monthly mag (see Sole's caricature of Crumb on the cover of L'ECHO 29). A major comic event this year was the beginning of HEAVY METAL by National Lampoon. This new American fantasy mag brings METAL HURLANT an American readership. The Wimmen's Comix movement in the U. S. stimulated the production of a French counter-part in three issues to date of Ah! Nana. A lot of great stuff is coming out of Europe these days and we still need someone to import it and make it available. Bud Plant has METAL HURLANT, L'ECHO, TOUSSE BOURIN, & A few others, but no one is carrying a complete line. I've written to Paris re Ah! Nana and Sergio Macedo's PSYCHOROCK, but gotten no reply. International bookstores won't handle them because they're undergrounds. CHARLIE we can get, but not SURPRISE. In Berkeley, you can see many of the French comix at Comics and Comix, 2461 Telegraph Avenue. These guys have Jack Katz' THE FIRST KINGDOM #6!



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CLAY GEERDES
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NEWSLETTERS SEEM TO BE CATCHING ON. HERE ARE SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE COLWELL-HARMS TRANS-CONTINENTAL GUY & SALLY HEAD FOR EUROPE IN SEPTEMBER.

AT RIP OFF PRESS, RUMORS OF A FREAK BROTHERS NEWSLETTER WHICH WOULD RUN SOME OF THE LETTERS & DRAWINGS RIP OFF GETS IN THE MAIL. WHY NOT? *

The main purpose of this newsletter is to announce the forthcoming new comic book by Guy Colwell.

INNER CITY ROMANCE 4 should be completed and ready for publication before Sept. 5, 1977, the projected departure date of the Colwell/Harms entourage.

The inspiration for Inner City 4 has been the struggle of poor people in various American cities, mainly San Francisco, to obtain decent housing at a fair price. The International Hotel, the Yerba Buena Annex ("Pink Palace"), the Hotel Padre and the Goodman Building are the names of some of the residences where tenants have defied eviction orders, refused to pay rent, or taken over the operation of their buildings in defiance of landlord and government. Usually the residents of these old structures are the poor, aged or disabled people that the money-and-self-centered American system would rather forget. Because they are unproductive and costly, these rejected people seem always to end up with fewer rights and far less power than an "American Citizen" supposedly has.

INNER CITY ROMANCE 4 remembers these people.

European readers of Inner City Romance will very likely see #4 included in the proposed anthologies of all the Inner City books that are being discussed and planned in Germany and France. □

BY SALLY HARMS

FRANCE CLEANS UP NEWSSTANDS

What's happening in France? We don't know the details of the legal changes that are coming down, but it seems that "adult comics" with any graphic eroticism can no longer be sold over the counters of French newsstands. Some highly erotic and irreverent comic periodicals, notably those from Editions du Square (Charlie), are being required to clean up their act or face extreme legal pressure. Already Surprise, the only pure "underground" comic that was ever sold on the French newsstands, has been forced out of business by these new legal hassles. Does this mean that French comic magazines will go the way of American TV: mediocre conformity and formula violence?

THE GOSSIP CORNER **

Cartoonist Dan "Odds Bodkins" O'Neill is living in a mountain shack 30 miles out of Silver City, Nevada, "trying to cram 96 pages into 30 days" for Random House; no electricity, no running water, "just a ream of paper and a deadline," he tells his buddy, Cartoonist Gary Hallgren ...

Rumor is that the big Disney has finally gotten around to suing Marvel to cease and desist defaming the character of their duck. And speaking of character, that's what the quartet in KISS lack. Just plain old Marveleroes in make-up and drag.* Latest STAR TREK rip-off is DC's STAR HUNTERS but it's a much nicer art job than Marvel's STAR WARS & characters have more potential.* Call me a sexist, but all I wanted after seeing THE DEEP was a Jacqueline Bisset t-shirt. * A BRIDGE TOO FAR is a longer version of PORK CHOP HILL. What surprised me about BRIDGE was it had no sex interest, very rare for a big film these days.* Gays outlawed in Florida. The Mitchell Brothers Ultra Room peep show busted in San Francisco. Anti-hooker citizens patrol the streets in Berkeley. It looks like a new wave of sexual repression is coming down. Guess it's a good thing the underground funnies have passed their pornographic stage. Most people aren't going to know that, however, because the only media that have been open to information about the ugs have been sex tabloids and slicks.* TANTE LENY 23 is out. $3 from Evart Geradts, 269 Hulshorstraat, Den Haag, Netherlands a great comic art book from cover to cover.* L'ECO DES SAVANES 30 just in. Wally Wood cover. * 8x10 photo of Vaughn Bodé. $2 pp from me. Inquire about other pix. I also have a few copies of Portable Fanzine 1 & 2 & both go for $2 pp.* Bagginer Press is Walter Bachner & Larry Todd & company. First publication was Bodé's Das Kampf. Several folios and comic projects in the works. See their ad next issue. The company is located in New York.* I suggested my book on ug comix to Ballantine and was told it would "not be suitable for the Ballantine trade paperback list." C.G.

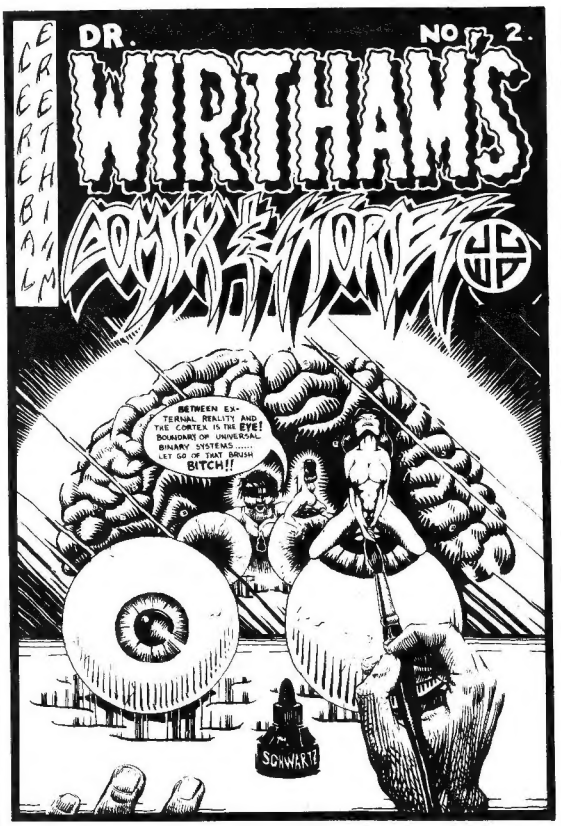
U Buys Rights To 'Buck Rogers'

Universal has acquired rights to "Buck Rogers," but hasn't determined yet whether the vehicle will be filmed as a tv series or as a theatrical feature.

U-TV president Frank Price yesterday confirmed that the studio has acquired rights to the cartoon strip, and said they are still weighing whether to film it for the big screen or as a tv series, which would be for the 1978-79 season.

Actually, property was acquired some time ago, before the b.o. impact of "Star Wars," and Price got the idea for the acquisition while watching an old "Flash Gordon" show on tv.

First reports were that U was planning a big-budgeted film on "Rogers." Price commented, "We're not ruling that out," although prime reason for the acquisition was tv.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SCHWARTZ

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